

COMMONWEALTH AVENUE REPAVING SURVEY

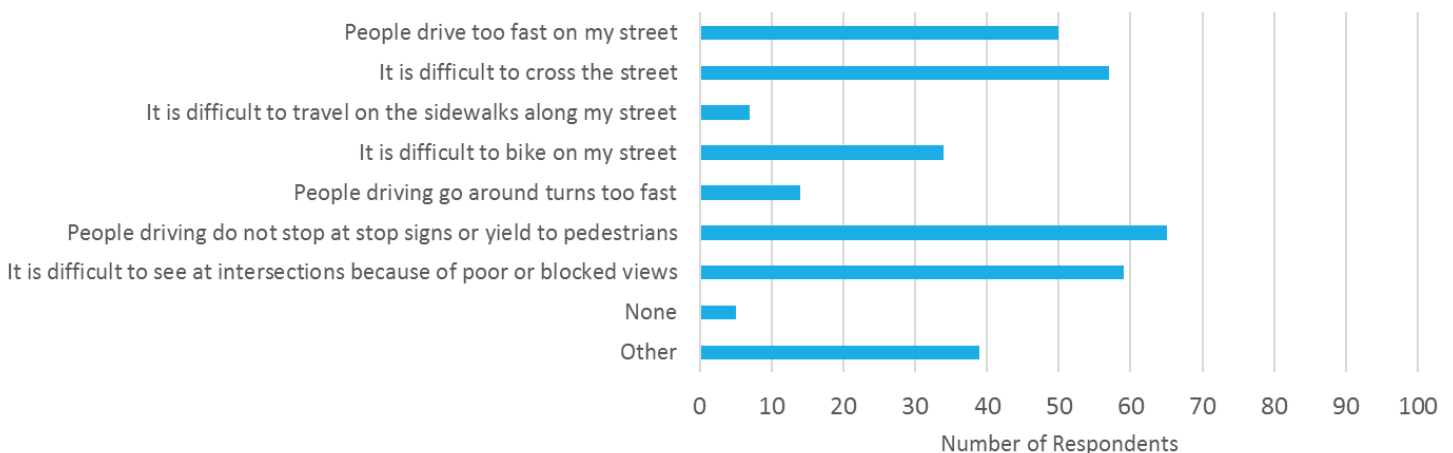
OVERVIEW

In preparation for the upcoming repaving project on Commonwealth Avenue from East Braddock Road to King Street, the City of Alexandria Transportation & Environmental Services Department issued a survey to gather community input on potential improvements to the roadway. The survey was open from March 6 to April 5, 2019, during which 141 responses were received. The feedback is summarized below.

RESPONDENT CONCERNS

The chart below depicts the concerns that survey respondents identified on the street.

What Are Your Highest Priority Concerns Along Your Street? Select Up To 3.



“OTHER” Concerns

Survey respondents were able to select “other” as an option and provide narrative comments on their concerns with the street. The following summary is not intended to capture how many residents referenced a specific issue, but rather is intended to catalog the range of different concerns on the street, some of which may even conflict with one another. Comments regarding other locations in Alexandria were excluded from this summary.

- Safety concerns at Commonwealth and Oak Street intersection
- People driving use bike lanes to get around traffic
- People walking and biking don't obeying traffic laws
- Speed bumps are too high
- Bike lanes end abruptly with no warning
- Cut through traffic
- Traffic queuing from King Street intersection

- Too many restrictions on drivers
- Bike lanes are too close to door zone of parked cars
- Not enough signage or lighting at crosswalks
- Potholes
- Limited on-street parking
- Insufficient pedestrian safety infrastructure
- Missing sidewalk
- Intersection of Commonwealth and King Street is challenging
- People driving blocking bike lanes and crosswalks
- Limited visibility from side streets due to foliage and on-street parking
- People driving swerve around speed bumps

DESIRED CHANGES TO THE STREET

Respondents were also asked to identify changes that they would like to see on the street. The chart below depicts the results from this survey question.



“Other” Desired Changes

Respondents were also asked to identify changes that they would like to see on the street. The chart below depicts the results from this survey question. The following summary is not intended to capture how many residents referenced a specific issue, but rather is intended to catalog the range of different ideas about the street, some of which may even conflict with one another. Comments regarding other locations in Alexandria were excluded from this summary.

Intersections

- Improve visibility at intersections by restricting on-street parking and/or trimming vegetation
- Traffic signal or traffic calming at Commonwealth and Oak Street
- Traffic calming at Commonwealth and Oak Street (e.g. speed feedback signs)
- Install traffic signal at Commonwealth and Cameron Street
- Install more four-way stops

Pedestrian Issues

- Make crosswalks more prominent with markings, signage, etc.
- Flashing pedestrian lights to improve crossing safety
- Improve lighting at crosswalks, particularly at Oak Street and Sunset Drive
- Extend medians to provide pedestrian refuge islands
- Install new crosswalks where they don't exist currently

Bicyclist Issues

- Continue bike lane to King Street Metro
- Remove on-street parking or move bike lane out of the “door zone” of parked cars
- Switch the bike lane with the parking lane so people biking have protection from moving vehicles
- Traffic calming for children’s safety
- Repair speed cushions and improve their visibility
- Reduce residential speed limit to 20 mph
- Reduce cut-through traffic
- Reduce PM peak hour traffic
- Make side streets one-way

Speeding & Traffic

- Use consistent design for speed cushions
- Make speed bumps more tapered
- Implement other traffic calming measures besides speed cushions
- Remove speed cushion gaps
- Remove speed cushions
- Traffic calming on side streets to reduce cut-through traffic
- More police enforcement
- Education on traffic laws
- Clearer roadway signs
- Fix potholes
- More regular roadway maintenance
- Implement parking restrictions for non-residents near Metro station
- Remove all on-street parking

Other/General

ADDITIONAL RESIDENT COMMENTS

Survey respondents were able to submit additional narrative comments. These comments are summarized below.

Intersections

- Reduce delays at King Street intersection
- A stop sign at Commonwealth & Oak is desired
- Improved visibility at intersections is desired
- Crossing guards are helpful for managing vehicle and pedestrian traffic at Commonwealth and Oak Street, but more improvements are desired to make this intersection feel safe throughout the day
- Pedestrian and bicyclist safety is a concern at Commonwealth and Braddock Road
- Improved lighting and signage is desired at crosswalks
- Expand existing sidewalks
- Pedestrian safety is a concern in general, but especially for students walking to school
- Additional lighting, crosswalk, and/or traffic signs/signal at Commonwealth and Oak Street is desired for pedestrian safety
- Intersection bulb-outs are desired to shorten crossing distance for pedestrians
- Sidewalks and curb ramps need to be improved for those with temporary or permanent disabilities

Pedestrian Issues

- A speed table between King Street Metro and Sunset Drive is desired to improve safety for people crossing
- Flashing lights for pedestrian crossings are desired throughout the corridor
- Commonwealth Avenue is difficult to cross, especially for children and parents. Specific

Bicyclist Issues

- Extend bike lanes on both sides of Commonwealth
- Increase safety for bicyclists merging when the bike lane ends
- Physical protection is desired for bike lanes, perhaps by switching the bike lanes with the parking lanes
- Adjust bike lanes so they are not in the “door” zone of parked vehicles
- Increase bike signage to reinforce right to ride on the roadway
- People driving swerve into the bike or parking lane to avoid speed cushions
- Commonwealth is one of the easiest streets in the City to travel by bike
- Speed cameras are desired
- Reduce cut-through traffic on Linden Street
- Traffic bottlenecks in this area
- Remove speed cushions
- Traffic calming throughout the corridor
- Congestion is a concern during the PM peak hour
- Existing speed cushions are difficult to traverse for people driving and biking
- Converting side streets to one-way traffic is desired
- 25 mph is too high for neighborhood streets

Speeding & Traffic

- Turn restrictions are desired to reduce cut-through traffic on Cedar Street
- Repair/replace speed cushions to be more effective
- Reduce turning radius at Commonwealth and Walnut Street to slow turning drivers
- Reduce complexity of roadway
- Increase visibility and clarity of roadway markings and signage
- Make more improvements for people driving
- People walking and biking do not understand traffic laws
- Pavement condition is poor
- More enforcement is desired
- Commonwealth is a wide street and could accommodate better bike lanes, sidewalks, or a street car

Other/General